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SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR IO/PSC TANAZ KHAMBATTA AND AF/E NOLE GAREY

E.O. 12958: DECL: 12/31/2018  
TAGS: [PREL](#) [UNSC](#) [KPKO](#) [SO](#) [ET](#) [IT](#)  
SUBJECT: ITALY SUPPORTIVE OF PKO IN SOMALIA

REF: STATE 134229

Classified By: Pol-Mil Counselor Liam Wasley for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

(C) Poloff delivered reftel demarche to MFA Deputy UN Affairs Office Director Leonardo Bencini December 24, urging Italy to maintain its support for the USG-drafted UN Security Council Resolution authorizing a peacekeeping force in Somalia. Bencini said Italy fully supported the draft text included reftel, which he said sufficiently took into consideration French and UK concerns. Bencini said Italy was frustrated with DKPO's hesitancy on Somalia, and while he acknowledged that resources were scarce, he said Italy continues to believe that getting a UN mission on the ground is essential to avoiding an untenable security vacuum after the departure of Ethiopian forces. Bencini said that in the current rush to tackle piracy, Italy hoped that the international community does not lose sight of the fact that piracy is a symptom of the state of anarchy in Somalia, not an isolated problem that could be removed surgically.

(U) Italy has been very active in multinational efforts to address the piracy threat of the coast of Somalia, providing the commander and flag ship for Operation Allies Provider and is slated to furnish a frigate to the European Union, s ATALANTA ESDP Mission.  
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